

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend Claims 3, 4, and 5, as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a conveying device which conveys a sheet to a reading position;

a platen glass which guides the sheet conveyed at the reading position;

a reading device which reads through the platen glass an image on the sheet conveyed at the reading position;

a sheet guide member, disposed on a side opposite to the reading device with respect to the platen glass, which forms a small gap with the platen glass; and

a driving device which moves the reading device,

wherein the driving device moves the reading device to a main reading position for a reading operation at a position at which the sheet conveyed to the reading position is in contact with the platen glass and to at least one sub reading position for a reading operation at a position at which the sheet conveyed to the reading position is not in contact with the platen glass.

2. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet guide member is a platen roller.

3. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a control means system, which controls switching of the reading positions between the main reading position and the sub reading position.

4. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the control means system switches the reading position when any stripe image is recognized during image recognition processing.

5. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a conveying device which conveys a sheet to a reading position;

a platen glass which guides the sheet conveyed at the reading position;

a reading device which reads through the platen glass an image on the sheet conveyed at the reading position;

a platen roller, disposed on a side opposite to the reading device with respect to the platen glass, which forms a small gap with the platen glass;

at least one sheet restricting roller arranged adjacent to the platen glass for forming a small gap with the platen glass to restrict the sheet toward the platen glass;

at least one white guide member disposed facing to the platen glass between the sheet restricting roller and the platen roller; and

a driving device which moves the reading device,

wherein the driving device moves the reading device to a main reading position for a reading operation at a position adjacent to the platen roller and to at least one sub reading position for a reading operation at a position adjacent to the white guide member, and wherein the main reading position is a position where the sheet conveyed in the reading position contacts with the platen glass, and the sub reading position is a position where the sheet conveyed in the reading position does not contact with the platen glass.

6. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the sheet restricting roller is disposed on at least one of an upstream side and a downstream side of the platen roller in the conveyance direction, wherein the white guide member is disposed between the sheet restricting roller and the platen roller.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising a control system, which controls switching of the reading positions between the main reading position and the sub reading position.

9. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the control system switches the reading position when any stripe image is recognized during image recognition processing.

10. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:
the image reading apparatus as set forth in any one of Claims 1 through 6, 8, and 9; and
an image forming section for forming an image on the sheet based on image information read by the image reading apparatus.